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Good morning Madam Chair and members of the Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee!

My name is Bob Wilson and as you hopefully know by now, I am the Executive Director of the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. We are the statewide voice for all non-motorized trail users in the state, helping people build, connect and promote trails for a healthier and more prosperous Michigan. In short, our mission is to make trails happen!

I am here today to support SB 553-565 that will modernize and update the state's historical marker program to continue to provide both the citizens of this state and those who come to visit Michigan to with the rich saga of history that can be found throughout Michigan.

As a trail building organization, we appreciate the added benefits that telling the these important tales of local history can bring to those who ride and walk and hike and paddle on our trails. The Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance is in fact working on legislation to help in telling these local trail histories in a consistent and professional manner and these bills will be a perfect complement to that work. This bill, SB 596 will hopefully be before this committee in the not-so-distant future!

We appreciate the fine work done by this committee to help us develop and expand the use of our trails with the recent E-bike bill package and the essential work being done by Sandra Clark and Dan Spigel in the Michigan History Center and of course the continued exemplary work of the MDNR in coordinating so many wonderful trail developments around the state.

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